

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 15 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

--Figures 6A to 9C illustrate 4 alternative embodiments, each represented by a front view, a side view, and a cross-sectional view as in Figures 5A to 5C[[]]; and--

Please insert the following new paragraphs before page 6, line 18 of the specification:

--Figure 10a is a perspective view of an attachment section of the connector according to another embodiment of the present invention;

Figures 10b and 10c are perspective and side views of an attachment section of the connector according to yet another embodiment of the present invention; and

Figure 11 is a schematic illustration of a pressing station for the assembly of an I-beam.--

Please insert the following new paragraphs before page 9, line 33 of the specification:

--Figure 10a is a perspective view of an attachment section 10 of a connector having spikes 13 projecting from one side of the attachment section 10. The spikes 13 are twisted about a longitudinal axis of the spikes 13.

Figures 10b and 10c are perspective and side views of an alternative attachment section 10 of a connector having spikes 13 projecting from opposite sides of the attachment section 10. As can be seen, the spikes 13 are also twisted about a longitudinal axis of the spikes 13.--

Please insert the following new paragraph before page 10, line 18 of the specification:

--Figure 11 is a schematic illustration of a pressing station in which two pairs of timber members are being fitted to the spikes 13 on opposite sides of the attachment sections 10a and 10b located at spatially separated sections of the connector 10.--